

THE PRESBYTERIAN OF THE SOUTH

VOL. I.

ATLANTA, GA., AUGUST 11, 1909.

NO. 32.

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Editorial Notes

We again call the attention of our readers, who may have sons or daughters to educate, to the large number of schools and colleges advertised in our columns. From much careful inquiry we are persuaded that educators in our Southland are giving all proper prominence to building Christian character, while training the mind and body. In writing we would be pleased to have you mention the Presbyterian of the South.

The subject suggested for mission meetings in this month of August is *papal Europe*. This has been a difficult field for Protestant and evangelical work. In some countries, as in Spain and Austria, there is almost no religious toleration, and in others, as France and Italy, Romanism has borne its fruits of infidelity and atheism. The effort to evangelize the people and free them from spiritual bondage on the one hand, and from utter rejection of all religion on the other, is a difficult task. But in all these lands there are faithful witnesses for whom we should pray.

The reports and letters from our missions beyond the seas, in the August Missionary, are all most cheering. We hear of continued enlargement in Korea, of a new church established at Placetai, Cuba, and of the opening of Mr. Sammoni's new school building at Lavras, Brazil. Everywhere, it seems, God has set before us an open door, and from all parts of the foreign field committed to us, comes the cry for reinforcements.

Most gratifying are the tidings from our missions in China of extended and fruitful revivals of religion in the mission churches and chapels. At Kashing, Kiangyin and Tungshiang, our missionaries report times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. In answer to earnest and continued prayer the power of the Spirit was shown in confession of sin, moral reformation and new obedience, and many apply for admission to the Church. What a great encouragement it must bring to all the workers in the field, and their many friends at home.

A distinct and useful step in advance is the organization in the home lands of societies or committees auxiliary to the work of Medical Missions in the Foreign field. In Great Britain and in this country some of the denominations have taken this step. It unifies the medical work of Christian missions, and keeps the churches informed. It receives report from the medical work in the field, studies its wants and sends it help and cheer. Christian physicians at home could do much for their brethren far away. Our church has about twenty-two Medical Missionaries, fourteen of whom are laymen, six are ladies and two who are also ministers and evangelists.

We have been looking over the annual statistics of the Presbyterian Church (North), which are just published. The number of candidates for the ministry drops from 1,105, last year, to 1,066. We suspect that this apparent decrease is due to the purging of the Cumberland rolls. The number of ministers increases from 8,951 to 9,023. The installations have increased by fifty-six, and dissolutions of the pastorate by eighty-seven. The number added on examination is 82,053, numerically the largest in the history of that Church. But the percentage of conversions is far below that of 1906. Then it was nearly seven and a half per cent.; now, it is only six and one-third per cent.

In the matter of contributions, this report of the Northern Church shows well. The receipts for Home and Foreign Missions, and for other benevolence, except Church Erection, show an increase. In the total there is a decrease, but it is due to retrenchment in the home or local expenses of the individual churches. The average per member of the contributions is not so large as before the Cumberland union. In 1907 the average was \$18.33 per member on the roll at the beginning of the year; in 1909 it is only \$16.66.

The progress of temperance sentiment, based on increased knowledge of the moral and physical effects of alcoholic stimulants, is indicated by the attitude of the employers in the recent adjustment of the Pittsburgh strike. Says the New York Times: "It is significant as well as curious that the one concession which the Pittsburgh strikers did not obtain from their employers was the abandonment of the requirement that the men in the company's service should not drink intoxicants, even when not on duty. This the men demanded, on the ground that such a regulation was an unwarrantable infringement on personal liberty, and so it would have been universally considered only a few years ago, but now the effects of alcohol in diminishing efficiency are better known than they formerly were, and the corporation that gave in on every other point stuck firmly to this one."